

Top Secret



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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Report

Weekly Report

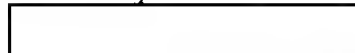
Prepared Exclusively for the
Senior Interdepartmental Group

Supplement

Top Secret

41

31 July 1967



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Approved For Release 2003/09/02 : CIA-RDP79T00826A002400410001-4

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SUPPLEMENT

BRAZIL

Nationalist sentiment on the issue of nuclear development is a factor in Brazil's opposition to a nuclear nonproliferation agreement.

Brazil has declined to accept any limitations on its "sovereign right" to carry on the research necessary to manufacture nuclear explosive devices for use in economic development. Although the government apparently has no definite plans to begin such a program, its views have attracted widespread support. Even among moderate leaders, only a few--such as former planning minister Campos--have criticized the policy.

Nuclear development is also being used as a convenient vehicle for stressing the "independence" of Brazil's foreign policy, specifically its diminished reliance on the US. Foreign Ministry spokesmen have branded "technological underdevelopment" the most onerous form of dependence.

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[redacted] Foreign Minister Magalhaes Pinto, well aware of the appeal of his position to the Brazilian military, is exploiting the nationalistic fervor over nuclear policy to further his own presidential ambitions. President Costa e Silva may not like his foreign minister's grandstanding, but he has made no public effort to dissuade him.



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